

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1816

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, PFOR, QA

SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW QATAR MIN OF FINANCE AND PETROL

REF: DOHA 0950, DOHA 0932

IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI PERIODICAL AL YAQTA RELEASED SEPT
14 IN QATARI DAILY AL ARAB, GOQ MIN OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM,
SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) OIL: 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER TO BE ANNOUNCED IN NEAR FUTURE.
QATAR AND OTHER GULF STATES DISCUSSING JOINT PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

B) OPEC: OPEC PRICES SHOULD BE RAISED TO KEEP PACE WITH
INFLATION. OPEC GETTING STRONGER AS INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES/
RIVALRIES DECREASE. USE OF OIL AS WEAPON NOT PREDICTABLE AT
PRESENT.

C) FINANCES: GULF DINAR DESIRABLE AND WILL BE STEP TOWARD GULF
COMMON MARKET.

D) GULF SECURITY: NEED TIME TO DETERMINE NEEDS. WOULD NOT
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DISCUSS ARMS BUILDUP IN GULF.

E) QATAR FOREIGN POLICY: NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT INCREASING IN STRENGTH AND WILL HAVE QATAR SUPPORT. QATAR WILL NOT COMMENT ON OR INTERFERE WITH KUWAIT INTERNAL PROBLEMS. LEBANESE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY LEBANESE WITHOUT ARAB OR NON-ARAB INTER-FERENCE. PALESTINIANS HAVE FULL BACKING OF QATAR FOR THEIR LEGITIMATE AIMS.

F) RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN: GOOD AND BROTHERLY RELATIONS REMAIN DESPITE RUMORS TO THE CONTRARY.
PAGANELLI

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